



YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

US History and Government  
Regents Review

Latin American Policy

## AMERICA AS A WORLD POWER: LATIN AMERICA

Having acquired an empire, the United States found itself increasingly involved around the globe as it protected its new territories and interests. Of particular interest to the United States was Latin America.

### **Expanding the Monroe Doctrine**

The Monroe Doctrine of 1823 warned foreign powers to stay out of the Western Hemisphere. For several decades, the relatively weak United States seldom referred to the doctrine. It was used, however, to support the American annexation of Texas as well as the Mexican War. It was used again, at the end of the Civil War, against France, which had set up a puppet government in Mexico and refused to give in to American demands to withdraw. France withdrew only after the United States massed troops along the Mexican border.

**THE VENEZUELAN BORDER DISPUTE** In 1895, the United States had an opportunity to restate and expand the Monroe Doctrine. Great Britain and Venezuela were involved in a quarrel over the boundary between Venezuela and British Guiana (now Guyana). The United States offered to arbitrate, or help settle the dispute. When Britain refused arbitration, the United States claimed that the British were violating the Monroe Doctrine and forced them to negotiate by threatening war. Secretary of State Richard Olney, in the Olney Interpretation of the Monroe Doctrine, claimed, "Today, the United States is practically sovereign of this continent."

**THE ROOSEVELT COROLLARY** President Theodore Roosevelt, further reinforced, even reinterpreted, the Monroe Doctrine. Economic problems in Venezuela and the Dominican Republic led to threats of European intervention. In both cases, the United States stepped in to restore order. Roosevelt explained American policy in a 1904 message to Congress. If a nation in the Western Hemisphere is guilty of consistently behaving wrongly, he said, the Monroe Doctrine requires that the United States step in and act "as an international police power." This policy is known as the **Roosevelt Corollary** to the Monroe Doctrine.

**THE "BIG STICK" POLICY** With the Monroe Doctrine as its justification, the United States intervened often in Latin American affairs, usually to protect American economic interests. President Theodore Roosevelt was famous for the motto "Speak softly and carry a big stick." This meant that the United States would use peaceful methods to protect its interests whenever possible, but that it would use military force if necessary.

The United States occupied Nicaragua with troops from 1912 until 1933. It also maintained a military occupation of Haiti (1915–1934) and the Dominican Republic (1916–1924).

The Dominican Republic had trouble paying its debts to European nations. When the Europeans threatened force, the United States took over Dominican finances, supervising them between 1905 and 1941. Haiti was supervised between 1916 and 1941 as was Nicaragua from 1911 until 1924.

**DOLLAR DIPLOMACY** President Taft's foreign policy approach was known as **dollar diplomacy**. This meant that the United States could help maintain orderly societies in other countries by increasing American investment in foreign economies. These investments tended to increase American intervention in foreign affairs.

**THE GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY** Only under Presidents Herbert Hoover (1929–1933) and Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933–1945) did the United States try to improve its relations with Latin America. Roosevelt backed what came to be called the "good neighbor policy." This meant less emphasis on intervention and more on cooperation. However, American economic dominance of the region continued.

**THE PANAMA CANAL** Since the mid-1800s, the advantages of a canal linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans were well recognized. With a canal, navy and merchant ships could move more quickly between the two oceans. In 1901 the United States, through negotiations, gained the sole right to build and control such a canal as long as it would be open to all nations.

Under Theodore Roosevelt, the United States settled on a route across Panama, which was part of Colombia. When Colombia seemed reluctant to agree to financial terms, Roosevelt encouraged Panamanians to revolt and declare their independence. The United States quickly negotiated a treaty with the new nation of Panama, which gave the United States a 99-year renewable lease on a 10-mile-wide strip of land across Panama. Panama remained a United States protectorate from 1903 to 1939.

Building the canal was a mammoth task, begun in 1904. Yellow fever and malaria caused delays as did the difficulty of moving more than 250 million cubic yards of soil. However, workers made the remarkable achievement of completing the canal ahead of schedule and under budget. The canal opened to traffic in 1914.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, United States intervention in Latin America was motivated by the United States desire to
    - 1) reduce the influence of communism in Latin America
    - 2) protect its growing investments in Latin America
    - 3) end Latin American independence movements
    - 4) encourage Latin American trade with Europe
  - 2) In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced the Good Neighbor policy primarily to
    - 1) grant diplomatic recognition to the Soviet Union
    - 2) increase immigration from Latin America
    - 3) promote free trade with the nations of Europe
    - 4) improve relations with Latin American nations
  - 3) Since 1823, which United States policy has limited foreign influence in the Western Hemisphere?
    - 1) imperialism
    - 2) popular sovereignty
    - 3) the Eisenhower Doctrine
    - 4) the Monroe Doctrine
- A major reason for the issuance of the Monroe Doctrine (1823) was to
- 1) provide economic aid to Latin American nations
  - 2) defend the Panama Canal from Great Britain
  - 3) discourage United States trade with Latin America
  - 4) prevent further European colonization in the Caribbean region
- 5) During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the intervention of the United States in Latin America was motivated mainly by a desire to
    - 1) reduce the influence of communism
    - 2) control Latin American independence movements
    - 3) protect growing United States investments in Latin America
    - 4) promote European colonization of the area

- 6) The chief reason the United States built the Panama Canal was to
  - 1) prevent the spread of communism
  - 2) close the Western Hemisphere to new European colonization
  - 3) reduce travel time for commercial and military shipping
  - 4) promote an isolationist foreign policy
- 7) The annexation of Hawaii, the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, and Dollar Diplomacy are all associated with United States efforts to
  - 1) expand its power and influence in certain regions of the world
  - 2) meet the demands of antiwar movements
  - 3) isolate itself from international problems
  - 4) implement policies of global cooperation throughout Asia
- 8) The Big Stick policy and Dollar Diplomacy were attempts to
  - 1) contain the spread of communism in eastern Europe
  - 2) protect free trade on the Asian continent
  - 3) increase United States power in Latin America
  - 4) strengthen political ties with western Europe
- 9) "I have always been fond of the... proverb: 'Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far.'"  
—Theodore Roosevelt

This philosophy was used by President Roosevelt primarily to

- 1) expand the western frontier
- 2) deal with problems of racial segregation
- 3) conduct his foreign policy
- 4) win the Spanish-American War

- 10) The *main* reason President Theodore Roosevelt supported a Panamanian rebellion against Colombia in 1903 was to
- 1) gain the right to complete a canal linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans
  - 2) prevent a foreign power from seizing land in Central America
  - 3) reduce European colonialism in the Western Hemisphere
  - 4) increase the number of democratic nations in Latin America

Questions 11 and 12 refer to the following:

"Chronic wrongdoing... may... ultimately require intervention by some civilized nation, and... adherence... to the Monroe Doctrine may force the United States... to the exercise of an international police power."

—Theodore Roosevelt, 1904

- 11) Which world region was the focus of the foreign policy expressed in this statement?
- 1) Southeast Asia
  - 2) Soviet Union
  - 3) Middle East
  - 4) Latin America
- 12) This statement helped provide justification for President Theodore Roosevelt's use of the
- 1) Peace Corps
  - 2) policy of Dollar Diplomacy
  - 3) conservation policy
  - 4) Big Stick policy
- 13) The Monroe Doctrine declared that the United States would
- 1) view European interference in the Americas as a threat to the national interest of the United States
  - 2) help colonies in North and South America adopt a democratic form of government
  - 3) prevent the establishment of new European colonies anywhere in the world
  - 4) prevent other nations from trading with South American nations

- 14) In 1823, the Monroe Doctrine was established mainly because the United States wanted to
- 1) keep control of Alaska and Hawaii
  - 2) support England's attempt to keep its empire in Central America
  - 3) establish more colonies in Latin America
  - 4) warn Europe against any further colonization in Latin America
- 15) A major reason for the proclamation of the Monroe Doctrine was the United States desire to
- 1) force Latin American nations to cut their tariffs on United States exports
  - 2) free Cuba from Spanish rule
  - 3) weaken French influence in the Louisiana Territory
  - 4) prevent Spain from regaining its former colonies in the Western Hemisphere
- 16) "It is evident that they belong to different systems. England to Europe, America to itself."
- Which United States foreign policy is most consistent with the idea expressed in this quotation?
- 1) the Atlantic Charter
  - 2) the Truman Doctrine
  - 3) the Marshall Plan
  - 4) the Monroe Doctrine
- 17) From 1900 to 1915, a basic aim of United States foreign policy was to
- 1) oppose revolutionary movements in western Europe
  - 2) prevent the spread of communism in western Europe and Asia
  - 3) develop close economic ties with African nations
  - 4) promote United States influence in Latin America

- 18) Which statement reflects a foreign policy view held by *both* President James Monroe and President Theodore Roosevelt?
- 1) United States influence in Latin America must be accepted by other countries.
  - 2) Close economic ties with Asia must be maintained.
  - 3) Noninvolvement in world affairs is the wisest policy for the United States.
  - 4) Revolutionary movements in western Europe must be opposed.
- 19) Which foreign policy position was held by *both* President James Monroe and President Theodore Roosevelt?
- 1) The United States should follow a policy of isolationism.
  - 2) A special relationship should exist between the United States and the nations of Latin America.
  - 3) Trade with other nations should be sharply reduced.
  - 4) The United States should send troops to aid revolutionary movements in European nations.
- 20) During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, United States policy toward Latin America was most strongly characterized by
- 1) indifference and neglect
  - 2) tolerance and humanitarianism
  - 3) friendship and trust
  - 4) intervention and paternalism
- 21) Which statement *best* describes President Theodore Roosevelt's foreign policy position toward Latin America in the early 1900's?
- 1) Latin American nations should form an organization to help them achieve political and economic stability.
  - 2) The United States should reduce its involvement in Latin American affairs.
  - 3) The United States should give large amounts of financial aid to help the poor of Latin America.
  - 4) The Monroe Doctrine permits the United States to intervene actively in the affairs of Latin American nations.
- 22) During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, United States foreign policy was marked by
- 1) acceptance of the principle of collective security
  - 2) declining interest in the Far East
  - 3) formation of military alliances with European nations
  - 4) increased enforcement of the Monroe Doctrine
- 23) The Roosevelt Corollary modified the original Monroe Doctrine by stating that
- 1) United States intervention in the internal affairs of Latin American nations may be necessary
  - 2) the United States should establish military bases in Europe
  - 3) European nations may increase their trade in Latin America
  - 4) European nations could begin new colonization in the Western Hemisphere
- 24) The Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine assumed the right of the United States to
- 1) grant financial aid to less developed countries
  - 2) grant special privileges to big business in its economic transactions in Latin America
  - 3) intervene in the internal affairs of a country in the exercise of international police power
  - 4) disregard any or all parts of the Monroe Doctrine
- 25) Which belief was the basis of President Theodore Roosevelt's foreign policy in the Western Hemisphere?
- 1) The Monroe Doctrine has outlived its usefulness and should be ignored.
  - 2) The United States can intervene in the Western Hemisphere to protect political stability and American interests.
  - 3) European nations should be allowed to protect their interests in the Western Hemisphere.
  - 4) Each nation in the Western Hemisphere is entitled to full respect for its sovereign rights.

- 26) The major objective of United States foreign policy toward Latin America during the period from 1900 to 1920 was to
- 1) protect the human rights of native peoples in Latin America
  - 2) support land reform throughout the Western Hemisphere
  - 3) improve the standard of living of the people in Latin America
  - 4) serve as protector and police officer in the Western Hemisphere
- 27) A major reason for the United States decision to build the Panama Canal was the
- 1) desire to increase foreign trade and military security
  - 2) success of the Erie Canal
  - 3) need to prevent Mexico from retaking California and Texas
  - 4) discovery of silver in Nevada
- 28) The most important reason for the construction of the Panama Canal was the need to
- 1) spread the United States way of life to less developed nations
  - 2) encourage the economic development of Central America
  - 3) stop the spread of communism in the Western Hemisphere
  - 4) increase the security of the United States
- 29) President Theodore Roosevelt's policies toward Latin America were evidence of his belief in
- 1) intervention when American business interests were threatened
  - 2) the sovereign rights of all nations
  - 3) the need for European interference in the Western Hemisphere
  - 4) noninvolvement in world affairs
- 30) President Theodore Roosevelt's Latin American policy was based on his belief that the
- 1) United States and European nations should work together to improve Latin America's economic conditions
  - 2) United States should intervene when necessary to protect its interests in Latin America
  - 3) Monroe Doctrine should be abandoned
  - 4) sovereign rights of other nations should be respected
- 31) In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, United States intervention in Latin America was motivated mainly by the United States desire to
- 1) ensure the safety of its growing investments in the area
  - 2) reduce the influence of communism
  - 3) counteract Spain's economic domination of the area
  - 4) suppress Latin American movements for national independence
- 32) United States foreign policies toward Latin America during the early 20th century resulted in
- 1) a period of little economic involvement with the United States
  - 2) the establishment of stable democratic governments in Latin American nations
  - 3) long periods of economic prosperity in most Latin American nations
  - 4) a lasting resentment and distrust of the United States
- 33) Which statement most accurately summarizes United States policies toward Latin American nations during the late 19th and early 20th centuries?
- 1) Emigration from Latin American nations was encouraged.
  - 2) The United States discouraged American investment in Latin American nations.
  - 3) The United States protected its interests in Latin American countries with military and diplomatic actions.
  - 4) As sovereign nations, Latin American countries were never occupied by the United States.
- 34) Some critics believe that the United States has had uneasy relations with much of Latin America because the United States has
- 1) been too friendly with Cuba
  - 2) placed its own economic and political concerns above the welfare of Latin America
  - 3) stopped the development of natural resources in Latin America
  - 4) allowed a Communist takeover in Mexico

35) United States foreign policy toward nations in the Caribbean has generally been motivated most greatly by

- 1) economic and military defense concerns
- 2) a desire for noninvolvement
- 3) a desire to establish democratic governments in the area
- 4) social and humanitarian concerns

36) Latin American relations with the United States have often been strained as a result of the United States

- 1) interference on behalf of European colonial powers
- 2) policy of neutrality in Latin American affairs
- 3) intervention in the internal affairs of Latin American countries
- 4) failure to implement the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine

37) Which is a valid generalization about United States relationships with Latin America in the last 100 years?

- 1) The United States has gradually realized that events in Latin America have little bearing on United States security.
- 2) Economic interests have generally influenced United States policy toward Latin America.
- 3) The success of democracy in Latin America is due largely to United States intervention.
- 4) Latin American resentment of the United States is due to communist influences.

38) Speakers *A*, *B*, *C*, and *D* are discussing United States foreign policy.

**Speaker A:** Throughout its history, United States foreign policy has generally shown an idealistic concern and respect for all humanity.

**Speaker B:** A survey of United States foreign policy clearly shows that the dominant theme of its diplomatic history has been a desire to expand United States power and influence.

**Speaker C:** The most successful efforts at foreign policy occurred while the United States was following a policy of noninvolvement toward European nations.

**Speaker D:** The United States has consistently shown a desire for international cooperation by playing the role of world leader.

The history of United States foreign relations with Latin America could *best* be used to support the views of Speaker

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1) <i>A</i> | 3) <i>C</i> |
| 2) <i>B</i> | 4) <i>D</i> |

39) The early 20th-century policy of dollar diplomacy indicated a United States desire to

- 1) interact with foreign countries in ways profitable to United States corporations
- 2) give trade preferences to nations that follow a capitalist system
- 3) institute the dollar as an international currency
- 4) give generous amounts of foreign aid to less developed countries

40) The Constitution rides behind  
And the Big Stick rides before,  
(Which is the rule of precedent  
in the reign of Theodore.)

This rhyme from the early 1900's suggests that President Theodore Roosevelt

- 1) ignored democratic principles in carrying out foreign policy
- 2) developed strong foreign policies but neglected domestic needs
- 3) relied heavily on the advice of his Cabinet and Congress
- 4) failed to make adequate use of executive power

Questions 41 and 42 refer to the following:



SOURCE: Culver Pictures (adapted)

41) The primary goal of the United States foreign policy referred to in the cartoon was to

- 1) improve relations with Caribbean nations
- 2) protect United States interests in the Caribbean region
- 3) provide defense for nations in the Caribbean
- 4) build United States factories in the Caribbean region

42) To carry out the foreign policy referred to in the cartoon, President Theodore Roosevelt added a corollary to the

- 1) Good Neighbor policy
- 2) Monroe Doctrine
- 3) Panama Canal Treaty
- 4) Open Door policy